

‘The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. Canceled
2. Canceled
3. Canceled
4. Canceled
5. Canceled
6. Canceled
7. Canceled
8. (Currently amended) A monitoring apparatus, comprising:
 - a message receiver at a central server to receive a first message from a first site, the first message including a first value for a first metric;
 - a tester at the central server to determine if the first value is acceptable, wherein the tester includes a first filter, the first filter defining a range of acceptable values for the first metric, and the tester is operative to compare the first value with the range of acceptable values for the first filter; and
 - an alerter at the central server configured to provide an alert if the first value is not acceptable.
9. Canceled
10. (Previously presented) A monitoring apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the tester includes:
 - a plurality of filters, each filter determining a range of acceptable values for a metric; and
 - a selector to select the first filter from the plurality of filters based on the first metric in the first message.
11. (Original) A monitoring apparatus according to claim 10, wherein:
 - the plurality of filters includes at least one filter defining a range of acceptable values for the first metric associated with a site; and
 - a selector to select the first filter from the plurality of filters based on a first site in the first message.

12. (Original) A monitoring apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising a log, the log including an entry corresponding to the first message.
13. (Currently amended) A system for monitoring software, comprising:
a central computer;
a monitoring apparatus installed in the central computer, wherein the monitoring apparatus includes a message receiver to receive a first message from a first site remote from the central computer, the first message including a first value for a first metric, a tester to determine if the first value is acceptable, and an alerter configured to provide an alert if the first value is not acceptable;
a first computer at the first site;
a first probe installed in the first computer; and
a network connecting the central computer and the first computer.
14. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 13, wherein:
the system further comprises:
a second computer;
a second probe installed in the second computer; and
the network connects the central computer and the second computer.
15. (Original) A system according to claim 13, wherein:
the first computer includes a software package; and
the first probe monitors the software package.
16. (Original) A system according to claim 13, wherein:
the first computer includes a database; and
the first probe monitors the database.
17. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 13, wherein:
the probe includes:
a first sensor to capture a first value for a first metric; and
a message generator operative to send a first message to a central site, the message including the first value.
18. (Original) A system according to claim 13, wherein the first computer includes an e-mail server to generate a message from the first probe to the monitoring apparatus.
19. Canceled

20. Canceled
21. Canceled
22. Canceled
23. Canceled
24. (Currently amended) A method for using a monitoring apparatus, comprising:
receiving a message at a central server;
determining at the central server a first value for a first metric for a first site from the message, the first site being remote from the central server;
determining at the central server if the first value for the first metric for the first site is acceptable; and
if the first value for the first metric is not acceptable, displaying an alert at the central server that the first value for the first metric is not acceptable.
25. (Original) A method according to claim 24, further comprising, if the first value for the first metric is acceptable, logging the first value for the first metric.
26. Canceled
27. (Original) A method according to claim 24, wherein determining if the first value for the first metric is acceptable includes comparing the first value for the first metric with at least one acceptable value.
28. (Original) A method according to claim 24, wherein determining if the first value for the first metric is acceptable includes determining if the first value for the first metric is within a range of acceptable values.
29. (Original) A method according to claim 24, wherein receiving a message includes:
accessing the first value for the first metric by a probe;
generating the message by the probe; and
sending the message to the monitoring apparatus by the probe.
30. (Original) A method according to claim 29, wherein sending the message includes:
delivering the message to an e-mail server by the probe;
delivering the message to the monitoring apparatus by the e-mail server.

31. (Original) A method according to claim 29, wherein accessing the first value includes accessing a software package by the probe.
32. (Original) A method according to claim 29, wherein accessing the first value includes accessing a database by the probe.
33. (Original) A method according to claim 29, wherein generating a message further includes generating the message by the probe, the message including the first value for the first metric and an identifier for a site of the probe.
34. Canceled
35. Canceled
36. Canceled
37. Canceled
38. Canceled
39. (Currently amended) Computer-readable storage media containing a program to use a monitoring apparatus, the program comprising:
software at a server to receive a message;
software at the server to determine a first value for a first metric for a first site from the message;
software at the server to determine if the first value for the first metric for the first site is acceptable; and
if the first value for the first metric is not acceptable, software at the server to display an alert that the first value for the first metric is not acceptable.
40. (Original) Computer-readable media according to claim 39, further comprising, if the first value for the first metric is acceptable, software to log the first value for the first metric.
41. Canceled
42. (Original) Computer-readable media according to claim 39, wherein the software to determine if the first value for the first metric is acceptable includes software to compare the first value for the first metric with at least one acceptable value.

43. (Original) Computer-readable media according to claim 39, wherein the software to determine if the first value for the first metric is acceptable includes software to determine if the first value for the first metric is within a range of acceptable values.
44. (Original) Computer-readable media according to claim 39, wherein the software to receive a message includes:
software to access the first value for the first metric by a probe;
software to generate the message by the probe; and
software to send the message to the monitoring apparatus by the probe.
45. (Original) Computer-readable media according to claim 44, wherein the software to send the message includes:
software to deliver the message to an e-mail server by the probe;
software to deliver the message to the monitoring apparatus by the e-mail server.
46. (Original) Computer-readable media according to claim 44, wherein the software to access the first value includes software to access a software package by the probe.
47. (Original) Computer-readable media according to claim 44, wherein the software to access the first value includes software to access a database by the probe.
48. (Original) Computer-readable media according to claim 44, wherein the software to generate a message further includes software to generate the message by the probe, the message including the first value for the first metric and an identifier for a site of the probe.